



Amtrak in Wisconsin Fiscal Year 2025



Amtrak is America's Railroad,[®] created by Congress to "provide efficient and effective intercity passenger rail mobility consisting of high quality service that is trip-time competitive with other intercity travel options." In FY 2025, the company's 21,000+ employees operated an average of almost 300 intercity trains per day along 47 permanent routes, serving a record 34.5 million passengers. Amtrak's network includes 526 regularly-scheduled stops across 46 states, 3 Canadian provinces, and Washington, DC. Partner-operated Amtrak Connections offer connecting service to additional communities, typically via bus.

Service & Ridership

In FY 2025, Amtrak operated an average of **16 intercity trains per day** on 3 permanent routes serving Wisconsin, with **850,549 total passengers** boarding or alighting in the state.¹ Service was provided via the following routes:²

- **State-Supported Trains**

- ***Borealis*** — Chicago - Glenview - Sturtevant - Milwaukee (*MKA & MKE*) - Wisconsin Dells - La Crosse - Winona - St. Paul-Minneapolis (*1 round trip daily*)
- ***Hiawatha*** — Chicago - Glenview - Sturtevant - Milwaukee (*MKA & MKE*) (*6 round trips daily*)

- **Long-Distance Trains**

- ***Empire Builder*** — Chicago - Glenview - Milwaukee (*MKE*) - Wisconsin Dells - La Crosse - Winona - St. Paul-Minneapolis - Fargo - Spokane - Portland / Seattle (*1 round trip daily*)

As **State-Supported routes**, the *Borealis* and *Hiawatha* are operated in partnership with the **Wisconsin Department of Transportation** (WisDOT; both), the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT; both), and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT; *Borealis*), in part using partner-owned train equipment. Outside the Boston-to-Washington Northeast Corridor (NEC), Section 209 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) requires that short-and middle-distance Amtrak routes (i.e., those less than 750 miles in length) be State-Supported; in other words, sponsoring partners fund the majority of those routes' costs and make decisions about schedule, frequency, and other aspects of service.

In FY 2025, sponsoring partners funded a total of \$15.1 million in operating payments for the State-Supported routes serving Wisconsin, helping support a combined total ridership on those routes³ of 844,901.

¹ Total equals sum of all boardings and alightings at in-state stations.

² Not all stops shown. Note that certain frequencies may not serve every station listed.

³ Unlike state- / station-specific ridership, total *route* ridership equals sum of all boardings and alightings divided by two.



Amtrak Connections

Some Amtrak routes offer partner-operated **Amtrak Connections** and/or other interline connections to additional communities (including in Wisconsin), via either bus or other modes of transportation. Many such services are sponsored by one or more of Amtrak's State-Supported partners, or by other public entities; these connections can be vitally important in certain markets. Tickets are purchasable through Amtrak; detailed, up-to-date information on available connections can be accessed via the booking tool on Amtrak.com.

Stations

During FY 2025, Amtrak intercity trains made scheduled stops at 8 locations in Wisconsin:

Station (Code)	2025 Ridership (Ons + Offs)	Amtrak ADA Responsibility	Amtrak ADA Compliance	Amtrak ADA Investment ⁴
Columbus (CBS)	23,504	Sole	Complete	\$4,018,717
La Crosse (LSE)	39,963	Sole	FY 28	\$2,149,191
Milwaukee (<i>Downtown</i>) (MKE)	555,161	None	N/A	—
Milwaukee (<i>Airport</i>) (MKA)	123,946	None	N/A	—
Portage (POG)	10,162	Sole	Complete	\$2,139,381
Sturtevant (SVT)	55,779	None	N/A	—
Tomah (TOH)	17,998	Sole	Complete	\$4,238,081
Wisconsin Dells (WDL)	24,036	Partial	FY 27	\$3,647,311
Total:	850,549	5/8	In Progress	\$16,192,682

Amtrak is working to ensure that its stations are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities. Most Amtrak-served stations are decades old; many were served by other railroads before the company ever existed. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), enacted in 1990, requires that U.S. stations be made accessible; in response, Amtrak developed an ADA Stations Program (ADASP) to bring station components for which the company is responsible into full ADA compliance. ADASP aims to ensure Amtrak provides the best possible service in the shortest possible timeframe; the program will ultimately invest a total of \$1.8 billion in 382 communities nationwide, including a **\$16.2 million investment in Wisconsin**. All Amtrak-responsible work is targeted for completion by the end of CY 2029.

Detailed profiles of every permanent Amtrak station stop, including current information on accessibility, can be found on the Great American Stations website: <https://www.greatamericanstations.com>.

Additional Footprint

Amtrak maintains a **crew base** in Milwaukee.

⁴ "Amtrak ADA Investment" describes Amtrak's projected total investment in compliance work over the lifetime of ADASP.

Host Railroads & On Time Performance

Outside the NEC, most Amtrak trains must travel over other “host” railroads’ tracks—and hosts generally control dispatching decisions on the tracks that they own. By law, Amtrak trains are required to receive preference over freight trains (i.e., priority in dispatching), but many host-dispatched trains arrive late at their destinations, and many routes do not meet on-time performance (OTP) standards established by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)—affecting millions of passengers per year.

Listed below are the Amtrak routes that operate in Wisconsin, along with each route’s major in-state host railroad(s) and full-route customer on-time performance (C-OTP)⁵ in FY 2025:

Route	In-State Host(s)	C-OTP
<i>State-Supported</i>		
<i>Borealis</i>	CPKC	56.9%
<i>Hiawatha</i>	CPKC	86.4%
<i>Long-Distance</i>		
<i>Empire Builder</i>	CPKC	53.1%

Amtrak Guest Rewards

At the end of FY 2025, there were approximately 22.4 million members of Amtrak Guest Rewards (AGR), with 249,936 members listing an address in Wisconsin. For more information about AGR, please see: <https://www.amtrak.com/guestrewards/home>.

Procurement

Amtrak’s procurements are subject to “Buy America”-style domestic preference requirements, which the company is proud to meet or exceed. Nationally, Amtrak paid nearly \$5.7 billion for goods and services in FY 2025; 99% of that amount was spent domestically, and **\$17.8 million** went to vendors in Wisconsin:

Community	Amount Spent
Milwaukee	\$3,026,620
Beloit	\$2,666,235
Glendale	\$2,275,471
Madison	\$2,023,578
Lake Geneva	\$1,948,604
Menomonee Falls	\$1,552,677
Waukesha	\$983,921
Janesville	\$794,950
Oak Creek	\$542,740
Brookfield	\$389,160

⁵ C-OTP measures the proportion of customers traveling on a given route who arrive at their destinations on time. Suppose that passengers board a train scheduled to make two stops, and suppose that train is on time at the first stop but arrives late at the second. If all passengers alight at the first stop, C-OTP for that train is 100%; if all passengers alight at the second stop, C-OTP is 0%.

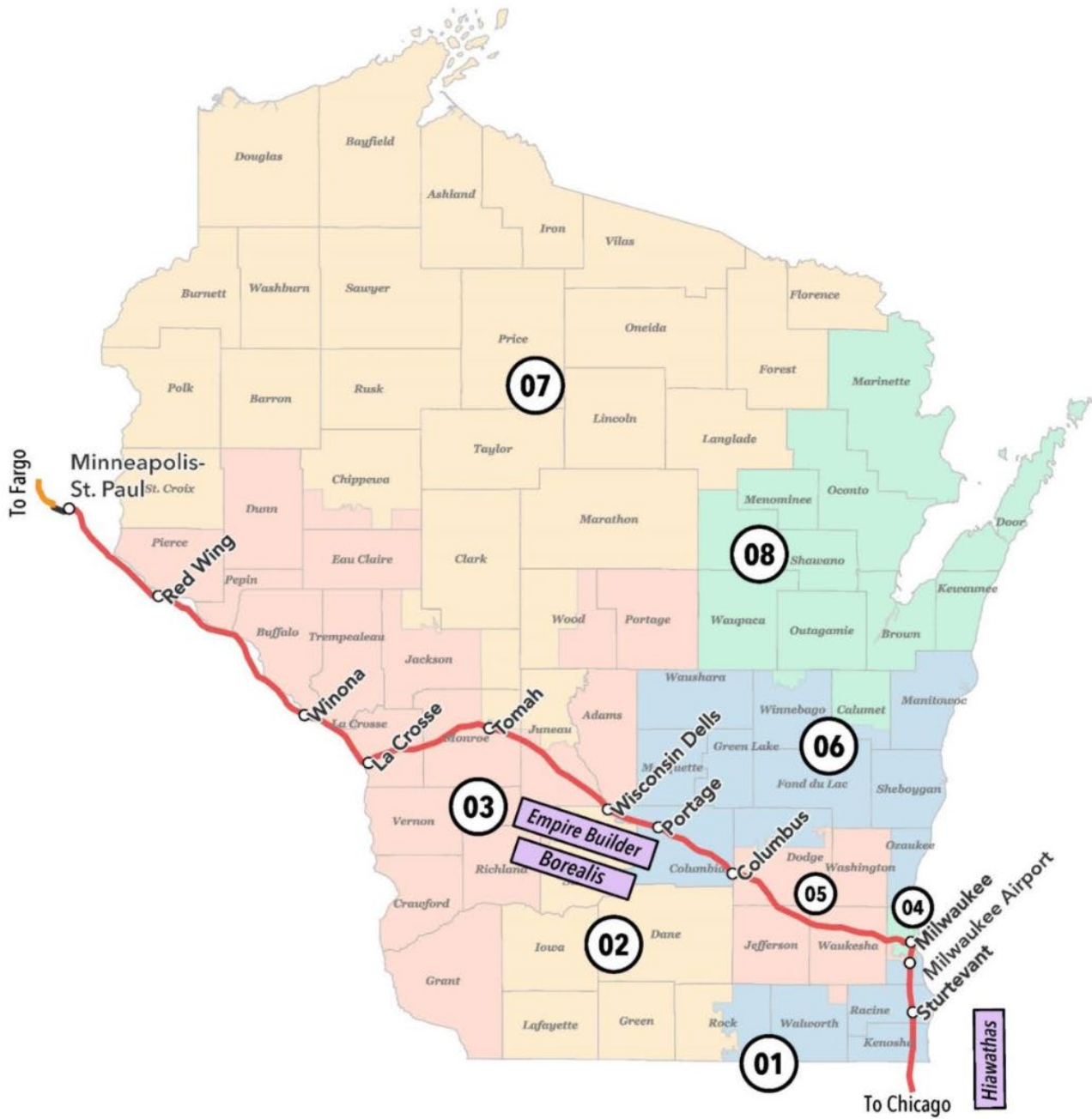
Community	Amount Spent
Sheboygan	\$279,833
Rothschild	\$153,920
Green Bay	\$149,177
Franklin	\$140,602
Sturtevant	\$139,610
Mount Pleasant	\$123,631
Brownsville	\$119,539
Hartland	\$109,663
Cudahy	\$99,350
Fond Du Lac	\$96,982
La Crosse	\$73,767
All Others <\$50k	\$144,486
Total Payments	\$17,834,515

The single largest in-state payment category was **services for various maintenance, repair, or operations (MRO) needs**.

Employment & Compensation

At the end of FY 2025, **70 Amtrak employees** lived in Wisconsin, and the company had paid out a total of **\$7,326,063 in base wages and salary** in-state. Nationwide, Amtrak employed more than 21,000 active workers; total base wages and salaries for the year were approximately \$2.2 billion.

Current Amtrak Routes in Wisconsin



Track Ownership			
■	Amtrak	■	CSX
■	BNSF	■	NS
■	CPKC	■	UP
■	Other		

① Congressional District

Route Name